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OLD RAEREN FLAGONS

An important salt glazed stoneware jug has recently been added to the Museum collection, which, on account of its historical interest, is worthy of special notice. It is of the characteristic brown and gray glaze, so extensively employed at Raeren, near Aix-la-Chapelle, in the old province of Limburg, the earliest seat of the stoneware industry in Flanders, in the latter half of the sixteenth century and the early part of the seventeenth. This fine example measures nearly eighteen inches (45 cm.) in height and bears the date 1609, the year of the treaty of peace between Spain and the Netherlands. Around the central zone are seven arched alcoves containing the effigies of kings and prominent personages in relief. Below the half figures are their coats of arms, while above are inscribed their names. The first niche on the left is labeled "Marquis Spinola," having reference to the Italian Marquis Ambrogio di Spinola, who was born in 1570, and who was the opponent of Johann Mauritz, Count of Nassau, in the Netherlands before the declaration of peace.

The second alcove bears the title "Engels Konig" (King of England). The third is inscribed "Roemsch Kaiser" (Emperor of Rome, or the Holy Roman Empire). Next to this is "Spans Konig" (King of Spain), and following these are "Konig in Francrig" (King of France), and "Konig in Denmarc" (King of Denmark). The inscription over the seventh figure has scaled off, the reliefs having been made in separate moulds and applied to the surface, but it is evident that the missing portion was lost before the jug was fired, since the surface which it would have covered is thoroughly glazed. Similar examples are to be found in the museums of Cologne and Aachen, in which the last medallion is inscribed "Mauritis," with the arms of Nassau beneath.

In the niche occupied by the Roman Emperor occurs the word "Pais," for which reason this commemorative pattern is known as the "Peace Jug." In two of the other divisions are the letters "H. B." and "I. B.," the initials of the makers, presumably the marks of Jan Baldems and the workman who assisted him in making the forms. The modeling reveals the same characteristics which appear in other examples of Jan Baldems' work. This master potter belonged to a line of celebrated artists and modelers of whom his predecessors Baldem Mennicken and Jan Emens were the most noted.

These "Peace Jugs" became extremely popular, and distinguished men, even at distant points, ordered examples from the pottery at Raeren and had their coats of arms placed upon them.

On the back of the jug which is here figured, beneath the handle, are three relief medallions containing coats of arms. The central one has not yet been identified but the other two bear the inscription "F. Joan Mintzenburg Prior Carmel Franc. 1609." Johan Mintzenburg was at that time a Carmelite Prior at Frankfort, Germany, and it was doubtless for him that this example was made.

The upper and lower portions of this rare example are embellished with incised and embossed designs.



RAEREN FLAGON
Salt Glazed Stoneware
Dated 1609

There are also in the Museum several Raeren jugs of similar form, ten inches in height, known as *Bauerntanz-Krüge* (Peasants' Dance Jugs). Around the centres extend bands with continuous figure scenes of men and women dancing, in pairs, accompanied by the following inscription:

"GERHET DU MUS DAPER BLASEN
SO DANSEN DI BUREN ALS WEREN SI RASEN
FRY VF SPRICT BASTOR
ICH VERDANS DY KAP MIT DEN KOR."

The translation is as follows:

Gerald thou must blow lustily
So the peasants may dance as though they were mad
Faith, says the pastor
I will dance away my cap with my cassock.

These examples are dated 1597.

The principal characteristics of Raeren stoneware are a yellowish or grayish body, heavy metallic glaze, varying in color from a deep reddish brown to a pale dirty yellow, frequently mottled or freckled, in places, with well modeled decorations which have been separately moulded and applied to the surface.

E. A. B.



NOTES

COVER DESIGN—The cover design for this number of the BULLETIN was executed by Miss E. C. Leonards, a pupil of the School, and received honorable mention in the recent competition for the prize offered by Mrs. J. L. Ketterlinus.



MEMBERS' DAY—On October 25th, a reception was held at the Museum in Memorial Hall for the members of the Corporation and the friends of the institution. Two hundred and fifty guests were present. On this occasion the newly installed collection of furniture, augmented by recent purchases in Europe, was ready for inspection and on the following day it was thrown open to the general public.



ART PRIMER—A new Art Primer of the Ceramic Series is now in press and will be placed on sale early in January. The subject is *Oriental Porcelains*. Copies will be sent to members, free of charge, on application to the Librarian. To others the price will be 50 cents.



PERSIAN POTTERY—Through the generosity of Mr. John T. Morris, one of our Trustees, the Museum has come into possession of a choice collection